and these schemes/guidelines give due weightage to development of backward areas/regions.

Action Proposed Against Bihar for Allowing Private Senas

1150. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the action proposed against the State Government for allowing private armies like "Ranvir Sena" to exist in certain violence-prone districts of Bihar and causing massacres from time to time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): Govt. of Bihar have reported that they have arrested a total of 2319 extremists in 1998, out of which 193 belonged to 'Ranbir Sena'. 21 extremists were killed during encounters in the year 1998 and 419 weapons were recovered from them. During the year 1999, 2584 extremists were arrested, out of which 259 belonged to 'Ranbir Sena'. 21 extremists and 418 arms were recovered from them. This year till March 2000, 260 extremist have been arrested and 13 extremists have been killed in encounters. Action is also taken by the Govt. of Bihar against hard core extremists under National Security Act/Crime Control Act. Special Security Force on the pattern of Greyhounds of Andhra Pradesh are being set up and two India Reserve Battalions have been sanctioned for combating extremist activities.

UT Status for Laddakh

1151. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Laddakh Hill Council has demanded for creation of a separate Union Territory for Laddakh;

(b) if so, whether this demand is the by-product of the feeling of laddakhis in the tasks of development and governance of the J and K wheras the State Government has been treating them in a cavalier fashion;

(c) whether the demand for Union Territory is the outcome of the widespread discontentment in the region over Dr. Farooq Abdullah's proposal for autonomy resolution; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?